

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 118
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to memorialize and pay tribute to the life of "Miss Dollie" Williams.

WHEREAS, it was with a considerable sense of loss that this General Assembly and her family and friends learned of the death of "Miss Dollie" Williams on December 12, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Cookeville native was born Eudora, later "Dollie," on January 28, 1904, to Rutledge Smith and Graeme McGregor Smith, the daughter in a family of two sons and a foster son; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie was a one-of-a-kind, storyteller, popular speaker, local historian, musician, world traveler, businesswoman, philanthropist, and a constant worker in the service of others; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her parents devotion to education, Miss Dollie, as a teenager, rode the commuter train daily from Cookeville to Nashville to attend Ward-Belmont; and

WHEREAS, later, she attended school in Washington, D.C and Vanderbilt University where she was a tennis champion both on campus and statewide; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie was married to the late Malcolm Williams, Sr., with whom she organized a Presbyterian church which grew to become the second largest such church in New Orleans; and

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WHEREAS, Miss Dollie enjoyed an extensive career in business and public service; this remarkable lady expertly headed the New Orleans YWCA and Girl Scouts and worked as a counselor at a girls' camp during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, the Williamses built the inspirational Camp Monterey in Putnam County, which has operated continuously since that time, attracting girls mainly from Texas, Louisiana and Florida, as well as Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie said her basic mission at Camp Monterey was "to help young girls experience nature and God in an outdoor setting"; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie was known for her private charities, and for helping numerous students go to college; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie and her late husband created a club for international students in New Orleans to help provide them with hospitality; in the 1970's she helped welcome students and refugees from Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie left behind a large and loving family, two daughters and sons-in-law, George and Marion Kelley of Nashville and George and Eudora Graham of Spartanburg, South Carolina; a son and daughter-in-law, Malcolm and Patsy Williams, Jr. of Cookeville; seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Miss Dollie was a tireless student of life and experience, and her words, reflecting the wisdom of her lifetime, will long be quoted by those who knew her: "I live from thing to thing, not day to day, always busy, drawn from project to project, rather unmindful of the passage of the days"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the bountiful life of this fine woman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Miss Eudora "Dollie" Williams, remembering with admiration her

exemplary character, her love of life and her many selfless contributions to her community and the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.